

# Opening Ceremony World Health Summit 2021, Speech Stefan Oelrich

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player for the video 'Opening Ceremony World Health Summit 2021, Speech Stefan Oelrich'. The video is from the channel 'Roberto Marmolani' and has 37,291 views as of November 16, 2021. The video player shows Stefan Oelrich speaking at a podium with a 'WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT' logo. A transcript is displayed on the right side of the player, starting at 08:37 with the text: 'ultimately the the mrna vaccines are an example for that cell in gene therapy'. The transcript continues with: 'I always like to say if we had surveyed two years ago in the public would you be willing to take a gene or cell therapy and inject it into your body, we would have probably had a 95 percent refusal rate. I think this pandemic has also opened many people's eyes to innovation in the way that was maybe not possible before.'

Stefan Oelrich is a member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG and head of the Pharmaceuticals Division, headquartered in Berlin, Germany, since November 1, 2018.

**(08:22):** *For us therefore, we're really taking that leap us as a company Bayer, in cellular gene therapy, which to me is one of these examples where really we're going to make a difference hopefully moving forward, there's some ultimately the mRNA vaccines are an example for that cell in gene therapy. I always like to say if we had surveyed two years ago in the public, would you be willing to take a gene or cell therapy and inject it into your body, we would have probably had a 95 percent refusal rate. I think this pandemic has also opened many people's eyes to innovation in the way that was maybe not possible before.*

## Full "RAW" Transcript:

00:01 i now have the great pleasure to  
00:03 announce stefan ulrich  
00:05 he is member of the board  
00:08 of management at bayer  
00:10 and he's also president for the

00:11 pharmaceutical  
00:13 section of bayer stefan please come up  
00:16 you don't have to wait  
00:18 and  
00:19 i know him from quite a few interactions  
00:21 and i know that he's a very globally  
00:23 thinking  
00:25 and  
00:25 research and development and  
00:27 innovation-minded person and therefore  
00:30 i'm very interested to hear what stefan  
00:32 has to tell us now the floor is yours  
00:37 well thank you thank you axel  
00:42 libra here professor gunn lieber axel  
00:44 priest  
00:46 distinguished guests ladies and  
00:48 gentlemen  
00:49 first of all it's really an honor and a  
00:51 privilege to be up here talking to you  
00:53 indeed axel and i uh  
00:56 share a lot of time during the year at  
00:58 least on the board of charity where i  
01:00 have the honor to also serve  
01:02 um  
01:03 but i've also been a close follower and  
01:06 also active participant in the world  
01:08 health summit over the last 10 years at  
01:09 least  
01:11 and deadlift it's

01:13 it's not only a privilege to be up here  
01:15 but it's really amazing what you've  
01:16 created over the last 13 years because  
01:18 what started as a small idea  
01:21 with a big vision  
01:22 today is much more than a small idea but  
01:25 you truly  
01:26 live up to  
01:27 the name world health summit because it  
01:30 has become a true reference every year  
01:33 and a fixture in everybody's calendar so  
01:35 congratulations for that  
01:43 this past year the life sciences have  
01:45 really emerged as a light in the  
01:47 darkness  
01:48 of the covet 19 pandemic  
01:52 its value to society recognized to  
01:55 degree rarely seen before certainly not  
01:58 during my lifetime or at least working  
02:00 in this industry  
02:02 we have many reasons to be proud of and  
02:04 you've heard it and it's really hard to  
02:06 speak after all these people  
02:08 i think unprecedented  
02:10 collaboration  
02:12 transparency but also taking  
02:14 accountability for health across all  
02:17 different  
02:18 sectors and stakeholders

02:20 we've heard about the breathtaking speed

02:23 of discovery

02:24 regulatory approval

02:26 also manufacturing

02:28 and getting vaccines and other highly

02:30 effective medicines

02:32 to patients

02:34 in

02:35 a time we've never seen before and

02:36 hopefully i think this all will serve as

02:39 a foundation

02:41 a foundation to

02:44 a more sustained uh partnership to

02:46 tackle some of the other health crises

02:50 that

02:51 we've heard about

02:53 because

02:54 this very disruptive pandemic is still

02:56 just a small piece

02:59 of all the

03:00 remnants of health that we need to

03:02 tackle so while we may be celebrating

03:06 um

03:07 we as global players cannot ignore one

03:10 simple fact

03:12 not everybody could benefit from the

03:14 breakthroughs and collaboration that

03:16 we've seen and bill you i think you said

03:18 it very nicely um

03:21 it feels good for me like for everyone  
03:23 else in this room  
03:25 um  
03:26 to have benefited over the past year  
03:29 from innovation that helped  
03:31 us to be today again in this room in  
03:33 person rather than to be all behind  
03:35 screens even though i um  
03:38 i applaud the fact that you made this a  
03:40 hybrid uh a hybrid conference which i  
03:42 think is going to be most of the  
03:43 conferences in the world regardless of  
03:45 pandemics anyway  
03:47 so  
03:49 i am not really interested in the health  
03:52 for a lucky few  
03:54 i'm interested in health for all  
03:57 our successes over these 18 months  
04:00 should embolden us to really focus  
04:02 much more closely on access innovation  
04:05 and collaboration to unleash health for  
04:07 all  
04:09 especially  
04:10 as we enter  
04:11 on top of everything that's happening  
04:13 really into a new era  
04:15 of science a lot of people talk about  
04:17 the biorevolution in this context  
04:20 so we've heard from bill a lot about

04:21 access so i'm not going to repeat  
04:24 some of some of the examples that bill  
04:27 has rightfully i think has given  
04:29 but  
04:31 health for all definitely means  
04:33 patients around the world that get  
04:36 access to medicines  
04:38 at a price that they can afford and  
04:40 making use of partnerships to ensure our  
04:43 efforts  
04:44 are sustainable over the long term  
04:48 i could give you countless other  
04:49 examples maybe also outside of europe  
04:52 where we are today  
04:53 where it is already difficult enough to  
04:55 get access in equitable access across  
04:57 all countries because i can guarantee  
04:59 you there's a difference between having  
05:01 access to novel  
05:02 medicines in berlin  
05:05 than it is in bucharest or in  
05:08 in the ukraine for example  
05:14 we also need to focus on what is  
05:17 socially responsible outside of europe  
05:19 and  
05:20 ensure sustainable action there  
05:23 we pledged  
05:25 this past year to give  
05:27 an additional 100 million women access

05:29 to contraceptive contraception in the  
05:31 world we've invested 400 million this  
05:33 year into new plants that are dedicated  
05:35 to just produce uh long-acting  
05:38 contraceptives uh for for women in low  
05:40and middle-income countries uh we had  
05:43 bill  
05:44 uh um  
05:46 uh bill gates this week in berlin i'm  
05:48 sure many of you have met him uh this  
05:49 week uh together with um  
05:53 with him and and melinda gates  
05:56 uh we're working very closely on  
05:59 uh family planning initiatives as an  
06:01 exam example for that  
06:04 one of my preferred uh projects uh and  
06:06 we're a leader in heart health as a  
06:08 company and we've been invested in this  
06:10 for a long time and and i hope one of  
06:12 the anticoagulants that you had to take  
06:15 maybe came from us so uh  
06:17 well he raises his thumb so so glad to  
06:19 help you out there bill  
06:22 and today i must say for the first time  
06:24 i didn't feel bad about never having to  
06:26 having tried a skateboard  
06:30 in terms of  
06:31 of one of the things that that i feel  
06:33 very strongly about is is our um because

06:36 it's a nice example it's a ghana health  
06:37 initiative a heart initiative story uh  
06:39 where we partner with the with the  
06:41 german um  
06:43 development initiative the gay eat set  
06:45 so the  
06:46 german institute for collaboration  
06:49 to improve  
06:50 risk assessment and management of  
06:52 cardiovascular disease on-site in public  
06:55 health facilities because i think this  
06:57 is exactly it's not just about donating  
06:59 medicines or giving medicines at a lower  
07:01 price is also being onsite to uh to help  
07:04 put this into practice  
07:06 which i feel  
07:08 is a nice example we've heard a lot  
07:09 about innovation tonight  
07:12 health for all  
07:13 is certainly also embedding innovation  
07:15 into all facets of the life sciences  
07:17 ecosystem  
07:19 making use of the current momentum  
07:22 to tackle issues beyond covet 19.  
07:25 we've seen the vaccines as the perfect  
07:27 example  
07:28 during this crisis  
07:30 but innovations in the field of biotech  
07:33 also radically upend



07:37 our view on many other diseases  
07:38 especially ncids we can now think of  
07:41 curing many of those disease not just  
07:44 treating symptoms as we think forward  
07:49 innovation and we tend to forget that  
07:51 especially especially in the rich  
07:52 countries  
07:53 is also  
07:55 sustainability at a totally different  
07:56 level because those that take the leap  
08:00 to drive innovation in a really  
08:02 meaningful way and invest  
08:05 and take the risk to invest in r d  
08:07 will also  
08:09 attain sustainability by creating job  
08:11 security and creating prosperity for  
08:13 those that take the investment i think  
08:15 this is really important also for  
08:17 uh  
08:18 for these latitudes here  
08:20 and um  
08:22 for us therefore uh we're really taking  
08:24 that leap us as a company buyer  
08:28 in cell and gene therapy which to me is  
08:30 one of these examples where really we're  
08:32 going to make a difference hopefully uh  
08:34 moving forward there's some  
08:37 ultimately the the mrna vaccines are an  
08:40 example for that cell in gene therapy i

08:42 always like to say if we had surveyed  
08:44 two years ago  
08:45 in the public would you be willing to  
08:47 take a  
08:48 gene  
08:49 gene or cell therapy and inject it into  
08:51 your body we would have probably had a  
08:53 95  
08:54 refusal rate i think this pandemic has  
08:56 also opened many people's eyes to to  
08:59 innovation in the way that was maybe not  
09:02 possible before  
09:05 but it's not just the industry that has  
09:07 to innovate it's  
09:08 across all  
09:10 all the value chains starting with the  
09:12 academia and university and again the  
09:14 world health summit and i could only  
09:15 applaud the initiative is a perfect  
09:17 example for that because that left like  
09:19 nobody else i think you've created a  
09:21 network of university medicine it  
09:23 started with very few and today  
09:26 i think it's somewhere here behind me  
09:27 you can see the example  
09:29 of all those that participate  
09:32 we need to make sure that the knowledge  
09:35 that's created in our universities in  
09:37 our academia is translated

09:39 translated before it goes into shiny  
09:42 paper publications it's translated  
09:44 ideally into patents  
09:46 and into applications and that results  
09:49 in new treatments medicines devices but  
09:52 also medical procedures that's what we  
09:54 need if we want to keep up with with  
09:56 innovation  
10:00 for us10:02at bayer innovation means uh  
10:04 collaborating early and closely with  
10:06 those partners  
10:08 and making sure no one is left behind  
10:13 so for everyone to benefit from  
10:16 breakthrough in science we require  
10:18 innovation-friendly policy regulatory  
10:21 and economic frameworks we've heard  
10:23 about this also in in bill's talk that  
10:25 really understand the urgency of acting  
10:28 now  
10:29 as the ground swell of the biorevolution  
10:32 picks up  
10:34 sustainable health innovation must be  
10:36 further elevated there is an opportunity  
10:39 here10:40during germany's g7 presidency in 2022  
10:44 normally henchbana would have  
10:47 directed this at you we now need to also  
10:49 talk to the incoming government in  
10:50 germany about this specific  
10:52 responsibility

10:54 to put health  
10:56 and innovation  
10:58 and sustainability sustainable health  
11:01 firmly on the agenda  
11:04 health for all  
11:05 means also recognizing that a global  
11:08 multi-partner effort is required in that  
11:10 collaboration will be key  
11:13 no industry player can do this alone no  
11:16 ngo can do this alone no government can  
11:18 do this alone  
11:19 we can only do it together  
11:22 and we've already seen over the past  
11:24 pandemic  
11:25 what can happen  
11:27 when everyone in the healthcare  
11:28 ecosystem is united by a joint purpose  
11:32 so  
11:34 what's new this time i think is how  
11:36 society at large views the life sciences  
11:39 in our collaborations  
11:43 we gave  
11:44 people  
11:45 around the world new hope we inspired  
11:48 new generations of innovators i can  
11:50 imagine that many young people that  
11:53 graduate now from high school and that  
11:55 decide for college education they want  
11:57 to go into science again because they

11:59 see what science can move and how  
12:01 important science is in our lives we  
12:03 inspired our community to think more  
12:06 boldly12:08collaboration will be key for achieving  
12:10 health for all  
12:12 in my vision i see a joint effort of  
12:14 government  
12:16 working hand-in-hand with science  
12:17 organizations industry and civil society  
12:19 and i can say  
12:21 as an example because uh minister spahn  
12:23 and i i think we've talked quite quite  
12:25 often over the last two years he will  
12:27 say not more often than he would have  
12:29 liked probably  
12:31 but  
12:32 it's been that type of collaboration  
12:34 that i would  
12:35 that i would hope for to preserve as we  
12:38 move forward  
12:40 we're at the beginning  
12:41 of a marvelous era in science and we  
12:44 should be emboldened as i said before to  
12:46 make health for all possible through  
12:48 access innovation and collaboration  
12:52 thank you for your attention